
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Kick Beck, Sally Cernie, Susie Doss, Albert Figueroa, Gurumantra Khalsa, Taffi Romero, Erin Snyder, Nancy Sturmer, Paul Van Doren, John E. Williams

Members Excused: None

Members Unexcused: Brandle Wivory, Kathye Crumley, Chritina Duran, Dan Gressmann, Jeff Kraus, Michael Piepoint, Bernice Tank,

Guests: Cindy Jensen, Rhonda Chatman, Tanya Kelly, Pat Ryman, Robert Treen, Norm Gritton, Terri Howell, Shirley Hanagan

Staff: Eva Yakutis, Housing & Neighborhoods Manager

1. Call to Order/Introductions – Gurumantra Khalsa called meeting to order at 6:32 pm

2. Approval of Minutes for June 4, 2007

Request was made to amend the minutes to reflect that Joanne Perkins and guest attended. (Snyder/Romero/carried as amended)

3. Visiting Councilmember(s)

Ward 2 Councilmember Andy Melendrez : Councilmember Melendrez thanked the RNP and staff for another successful Neighborhood Conference on June 30, 2007. He heard many positive comments. The following reports were given as to neighborhood group activity in Ward 2:

- Dwight Street Neighbors – 100 to 125 residents participated in the 4th of July celebration held by the neighborhoods
- Sycamore Canyon Community Action Group – Neighbors gathered to watch the downtown fireworks show from the ridge at Sycamore Canyon Park.
- Mission Inn Neighborhood Group – The group is dealing with issues and advocating relative to a local liquor store removal.
- Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group – The neighborhood cleaned yards and painted some homes with assistance from Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful.

Ward 6 Councilmember Nancy Hart : Councilmember Hart thanked the RNP and staff for a job well done at the neighborhood conference and commented that the workshops were better than ever, the color-coordination was a great touch again this year, signage was good, and the food! She overheard someone say, “Boy, if you didn’t have a good day today, you’re never going to have a good day!” An overview was given as to Rebuilding Together Riverside (RTR) and a call made for applicants. Questions were fielded from the board about RTR.

4. Concerns from Visiting Neighborhoods

(No visiting Neighborhoods shared concerns.)

Board Member comments:

John E. Williams: At the Neighborhood Caucus at the conference, two or three people were interested in being a board member but didn’t qualify to run for a seat because board membership requires one to be already a member of a neighborhood association. Mr. Williams identified Aurora Chavez as one of those individuals and recommended that the board assist her in organizing her neighborhood. Kirk Beck was asked to assist and Erin Snyder offered to help.

Gurumantra Khalsa: Suggested that the RNP send a letter to those that ran for seats and were not elected encouraging them to organize their neighborhoods if they haven't and inviting them to participate in the leadership academy.

Erin Snyder: Suggested more networking events – add RNP nominees to the leadership academy mailing.

5. California Telephone Access Program (CTAP) Presentation

Terri Howell from CTAP gave a presentation on services and equipment for persons with disabilities. The services and equipment are free. She can be contacted at (951) 543-9572.

6. Housing & Neighborhoods Division Report

- a) Neighborhood Conference – thank you to all volunteers. Great success. Close to 500 attendees with excellent evaluations turned in.
- b) John Campbell's workshop – literature distributed that the keynote speaker shared at his workshop.
- c) September RNP meeting – date set for September 10. At that time binders will be distributed to all members, new members will share about their neighborhood association and purpose for wanting to be on the board, attendance rules will be discussed as well as bylaws. Dinner will be provided and slideshow of conference pictures. Recognition of out-going members.

7. Future Agenda Items

- a) Inviting councilmembers strategically to RNP meetings to meet the board
- b) Kirk Beck: Large earthquake could hit sometime, neighborhoods need to be prepared. Requested discussion of getting the county assessor to give a break on property taxes with the break then going to earthquake insurance.
- c) Taffi Romero: CERT Training
- d) Susie Doss: Training on emergency preparedness for neighborhoods to cope on their own for three days.
- e) Eva suggested the Leadership Riverside Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness curriculum would be perfect for this purpose. This could be discussed in the fall when RNP goals for the year are set.

8. Other Items/Public Comment

John E. Williams: On September 16, 2007, MARB Leadership Conference is taking place given by AARP, retired federal employees

Tanya Kelly: Discussion of trains stopping on Merrill Avenue for 20 minutes.

Cindy Jensen: Historic Wood Streets Association is having its summer potluck on August 24 at 4 p.m.

9. Next Meeting

September 10, 2007 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.